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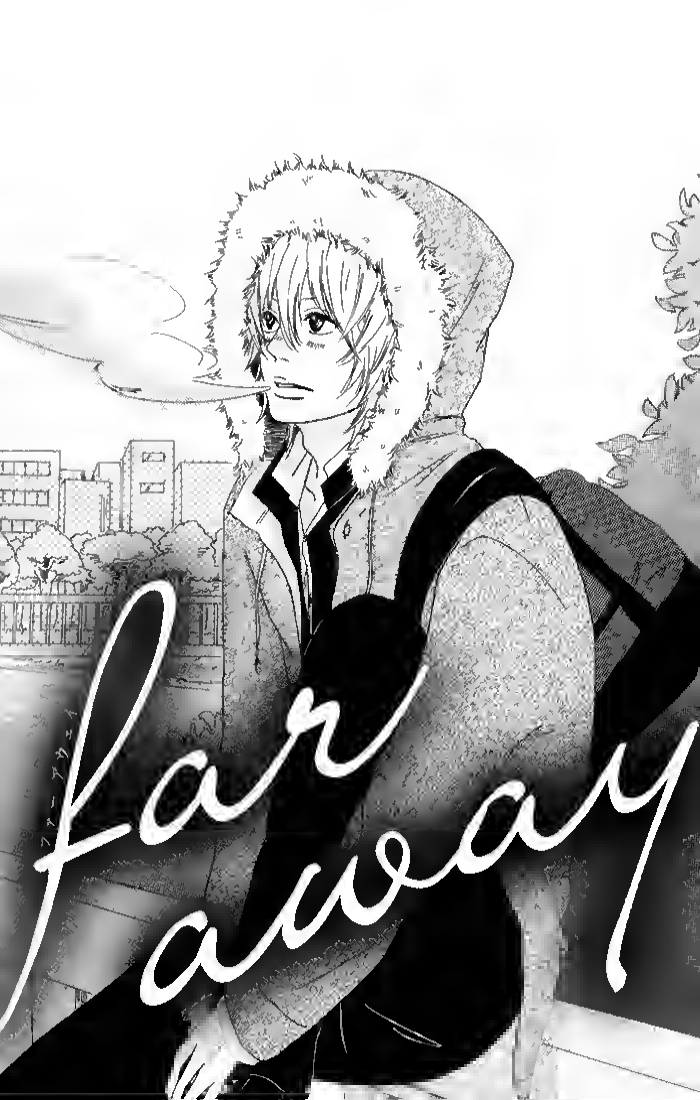
Shoujo Sense


far away

Are you free today?
Let's go to karaoke!
If it's something I'm after, it doesn't matter what anyone else thinks.
That really hasn't changed much these days.
The old ladies in my neighborhood always used to tell me, "Shou-kun is such a hard worker, isn't he?"
Shou!
Good morning!
SFX: SMILE
I CAN'T TODAY, LADIES
Everything I do is so I can become popular.

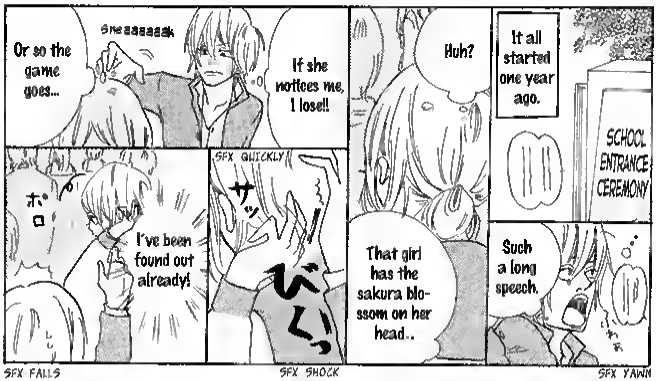
TERASAWA SHOU (17)

Here's my take on how to become popular
First Point
My sad
If you hang out with the same people all the time, they'll start thinking you've got too much free time on your hands
Wherever
You've got to become that unattainable goal
Second Point
NO WAY!
DON'T TELL ME YOU'VE GONE AND GOTTEN A GIRL-FRIEND?!
Don't ever have a steady girlfriend
NOW WHY WOULD I GO AND DO THAT?
SAKIKO GOOD MORNING!
SFX CLICK
Ah
Takeuchi Sakiko...
GOOD MORNING!
AWESOME! YOU'RE SO SMART!
I HEARD THAT YOU SCORED TOP OF THE CLASS AGAIN ON THE LAST TEST
TAKE-UCHI-SAN

SFX. BA-THUMP
IN BETWEEN TWO HOT CHICKS
TAKE-UCHI-SAN
I FELL ASLEEP IN LITERATURE CLASS YESTER-DAY AND DIDN'T TAKE ANY NOTES. CAN I BORROW YOURS?
Heeeh!
WELL, ACTUALLY I DOZED OFF A LITTLE SO I MISSED SOME PARTS...
Chu
She fell asleep?! Sooo cute.
And she's handing them over to me herself!
...
HEY, SHOU!!
YOU'RE DIFFERENT AROUND US THAN YOU ARE AROUND TAKEUCHI-SAN, YOU KNOW?
COULD IT BE THAT THIS IS HOW YOU REALLY ARE?!
SFX. BOO BOO
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SUGGEST? IT'S CUTE THAT YOU'RE JEA-LOUS...
Grin
SFX. PAT
I'm not jealous.
Third Point

far away

SFX SULKING
To think that all the women around me are this easy...
ムム!
Sakika good morning
Oh, good morning
ordinary woman will naturally fall for you
by telling her words she likes to hear and having light physical contact
Eventually, I'll have to decide on one
Sigh

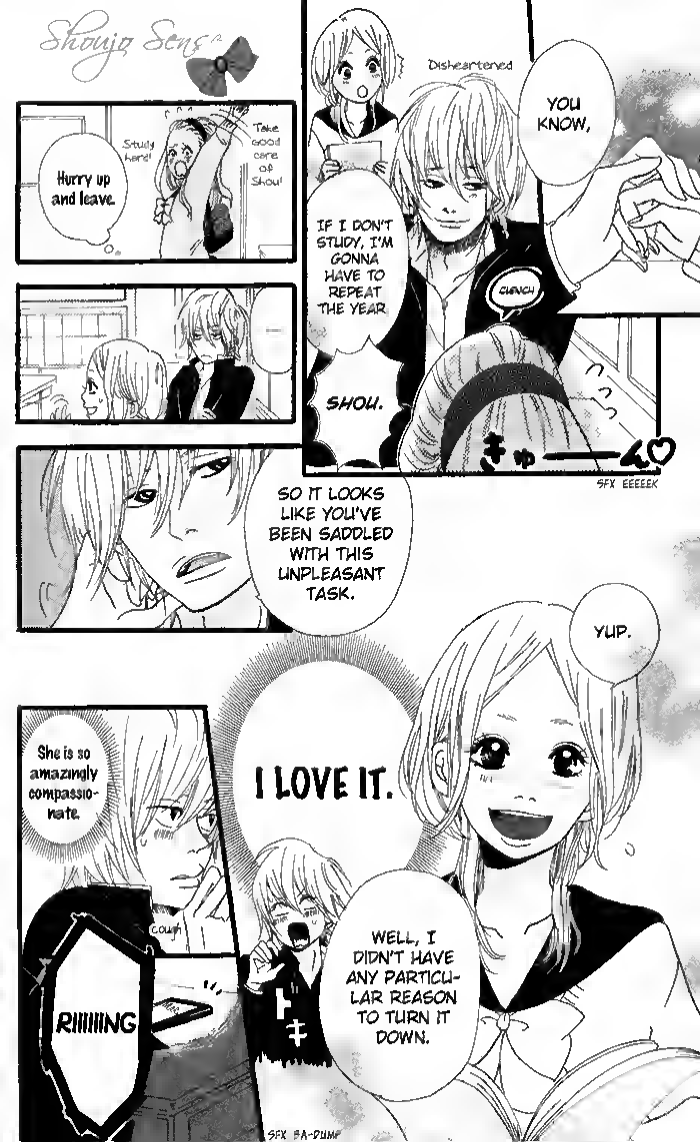

Or so the game goes...
Sheeeeeeek
If she notices me, I lose!!
SFX QUICKLY
I've been found out already!
ポロ
Huh?
That girl has the sakura blossom on her head..
It all started one year ago.
SCHOOL ENTRANCE CEREMONY
Such a long speech.
SFX FALLS
SFX SHOCK
SFX YAWN

THANK YOU.
CAN'T GO BACK NOW.
Aha-ha-ha
WELL, IF I WERE TO DATE SOMEONE, I'D REALLY LIKE TO BE ABLE TO GROW AND MATURE ALONGSIDE HIM.
Or something...
Gah, what?! This girl!!
She's so damn level-headed, isn't she!! Ah... I want her to be my girlfriend!!
ズキューン
After that, I thoroughly investigated her name, birthday, and other things like that
HEY, I'M NOT A STALKER!!
At last!! Thank you friend!!
Gym class wore me out.
Yeah, me too.
SAKI-CHAN, WHAT KIND OF GUYS DO YOU LIKE?
HMM...
LET'S SEE...

But how do I...
WHAT IF IT'S A POPULAR GUY? OR SOMEONE OUTSIDE YOUR STANDARDS?
Emm...
AH, WELL A POPULAR GUY WOULD BE OKAY TOO.
It's pretty cool
SFX SURPRISED
I read porn books to study up on women.
I worked out non-stop
What is worth, you?
Please tell me how to be popular!
I went and talked with all the coolest guys in town
How shameless
SFX FLASH
That's it!
From now on, I'll be popular!!
OH, BUT ACTUALLY,
I ALREADY HAVE SOMEONE I LIKE. I MET HIM AT THE ENTRANCE CEREMONY.
HEH
I've mastered the art of being popular.
All that's left is to figure out a plan of attack.
SAWA
TERA-SAWA
WHAT'S THAT? YOU'RE BUGGING ME.
I was asleep just now!!
WHAT?! PERSISTENT OLD MAN!!
Who the hell

SFX TA TA
SFX GAAAAAH
TERASAWA, REPORT TO THE STAFF ROOM LATER.
No way.
That was so not cool of me.
OH NO
SFX AHEM
I'M SORRY ABOUT THAT.
WAS I BEING TOO PERSISTENT?
After seeing something so horrible, I'm bound to lose points with her!!
She's looking this way!!
STAFF ROOM
TERASAWA, YOU HAVEN'T BEEN ATTENDING CLASSES AS YOU SHOULD
AND IF YOU FAIL THE NEXT EXAM,
YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO REPEAT THE YEAR.
!!
SFX AAAAAAH
What?
YOU'LL BE TUTORED BY TAKEUCHI AFTER SCHOOL.
I'll ask her to help you

far away
Could this whole mess be my chance?
What do I do if I disgrace myself even more?!
NO NO NO!! NO WAY!! AND WHY DOES IT HAVE TO BE TAKEUCHI?! CAN'T YOU FIND SOMEONE ELSE?!
NO WAY!!
BECAUSE SHE'S TOP OF THE CLASS.
You've got to be shitting me.
OKAY THEN, I'LL TEACH YOU.
Smirk
UMM...
IS IT OKAY IF WE START?
GR..
Jeez!
Grin
Hey...
Wait a minute.
...
HAH?
Glare
Umm
Well now. How should I go about making her like me?


Take good care of Shou!
Study here!
Hurry up and leave.
Disheartened
YOU KNOW,
IF I DON'T STUDY, I'M GONNA HAVE TO REPEAT THE YEAR
CLENCH
SHOU.
SFX EEEEEK
SO IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE BEEN SADDLED WITH THIS UNPLEASANT TASK.
YUP.
I LOVE IT.
She is so amazingly compassionate.
COUGH
RIIIIING
SFX BA-DUMP
WELL, I DIDN'T HAVE ANY PARTICULAR REASON TO TURN IT DOWN.

SFX RIIIIING
YOU NEED TO ANSWER THAT?
Um
NO, IT'S NOT REALLY...
I JUST THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE SOMETHING URGENT.
SFX RIIIIING
SFX RIIIIING
SORRY IT'S SO LOUD.
MAP
AH...
She's being pretty persistent.
I'LL JUST SEND HER A MESSAGE LATER.
BUT YOU'RE HELPING ME STUDY RIGHT NOW, SO
SFX RIII
SFX RIIIIING
YOU'RE A NICE GUY, YOU KNOW.
HUH?
What did you say?
SFX RIIIIING

I'M SORRY I WASN'T LISTENING.
EH?
AH,
NO, IT'S FINE...
BLUSH
SFX WAVE
IT'S LIKE I'VE GOT
SUCH A COOL PERSON ALL TO MYSELF...
Embarrassed
Huh?
OH!
THAT PROBABLY FREAKS YOU OUT.

SFX FALLS OVER
SFX DIIING
TERA-SAWA-KUN!
ARE YOU OKAY?!
Oh no, please, monopolize me all you wa—
ハッター
E-H
ARE YOU HURT?
NO WAY!! I was just turning to look over my shoulder
I'M FINE
SFX SUDDEN
PULL
OH IT'S OKAY
I CAN GET UP ON MY OWN.
THANK GOOD-NESS
Haha!
AT LEAST, THAT'S MY OWN PERSONAL DE-LUSION OF HOW IT IS.
SFX REELING

SFX: BA-DUMP 2x
What the hell am I doing?
This isn't something to be so flustered about!!
YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING IN YOUR HAIR.
Not really.
!!
Up until now, I've been able to come in contact with women countless times, right?
I've got to get used to it while I can, before I miss my chance again.
...
HE'S KIND AND HARD-WORKING AND GENTLE...
BUT HE'S A GOOD PERSON
UGH. TERASAWA'S WITH A DIFFERENT GIRL AGAIN.
I'm totally gonna punch him in the face!!
THOSE GIRLS ARE STUPID TOO ACTING ALL FLASHY LIKE THAT
Kya
SFX: GRABS

far away
SAY, TAKEUCHI-SAN
YOU'RE PRETTY INEXPERIENCED, AREN'T YOU.
Let's see.
IT SEEMS LIKE YOU HAVEN'T REALLY DATED ANYONE BEFORE, AM I RIGHT?
CRAP. I messed up.
HEH HEH.
I didn't mean that in a bad way!!
I think I seriously insulted her!!
SFX: DROPS
There there
UH NO NOT REALLY
SAKIKO YOU REALLY ARE A GOOD GIRL AREN'T YOU?
Yes
I'll try again today.
SFX: ZLENCH
I've got to show her the full extent of my popular self!
2 - B
WELL, TODAY WE'LL START FROM HERE...

OH, IT'S ALREADY DARK OUT.
Of course
After I said that, we didn't really talk at all
I'D BE GREAT IF YOU DID WELL ON TOMORROW'S TEST.
WHICH WAY IS IT TO YOUR HOUSE?
HE-HE?
OH, IT'S LATE, SO I'LL WALK YOU HOME.
?
Tha-that's right!! I'll... risk it all on this last chance.
Whenever I'm with this girl, I can't seem to be cool anymore.
It's so damn quiet.
I wonder why
Or so I said.
What should I talk about-
ゴキュ
SEX GULP
IT'S SNOWING

HAHA
SPA LAUNDRY
I CAN EAT THE SNOW!
Ahaha!
LOOK!!
IT'S DIRTY!
キャハハ
THIS IS SO MUCH FUN.
I WONDER IF THIS IS WHAT IT FEELS LIKE TO BE WITH A BOYFRIEND...
WHERE THINGS TURN INTO A GREAT EVENT SIMPLY BECAUSE IT STARTED SNOWING. I'D REALLY LIKE THAT SOMEDAY.
...

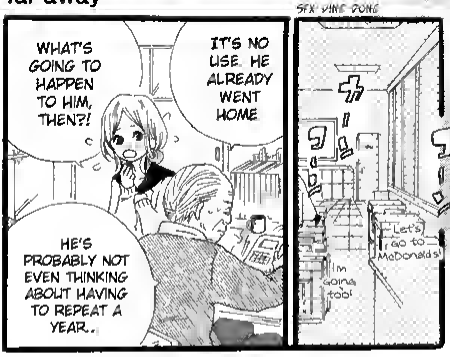
TAKEUCHI-SAN.
DO YOU HAVE SOMEONE THAT YOU LIKE?
HM?
IT'S AN UNREQUITED LOVE THOUGH.
... OH ...
!!!
YEAH.

Well, then it's definitely not me.
O-OH !!
WHAT KINDA GUY IS HE?
UM LET'S SEE... HE'S KIND AND MATURE.
Whoa ...
BUT I WOULDN'T BE A GOOD MATCH FOR HIM SINCE I'M NOT AS GROWN-UP AS HE IS.
Of all the things he could be, he's the exact opposite of me.
For popularity's sake, I flirted with girls I didn't even like
and tried desperately to become her ideal man.
TAKEUCHI-SAN
All of it
have I been doing up 'til now?
Ah, well, what the hell

SEE YA.
Meant absolutely nothing.
Oh yeah

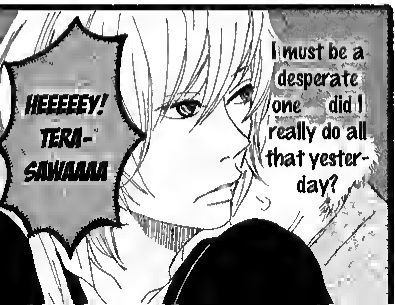
She didn't even consider me from the start.
Was it because I put all my effort into becoming who I thought would be an ideal man
Beep
that Takeuchi didn't even notice a single thing about me?
WHAT'S UP?
Maybe if I had thought about trying to get her to notice me, she would've actually noticed.
SHO—U
THIS IS RARE, ISN'T IT? YOU CALLING ME UP.

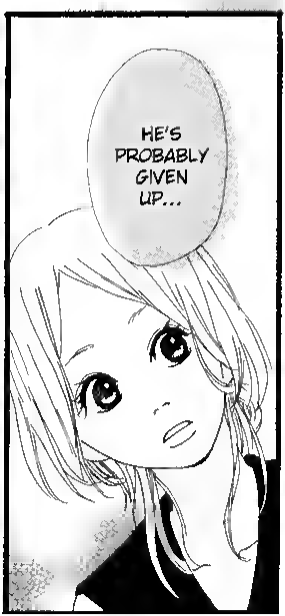
From the very start...
SHOU?
SFX: HUG?
OH.
WHAT'S THIS? DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
I couldn't relate to her, couldn't be in a relationship with her.
Nothing's changed up til now.
SNIFF
People are looking at us
SORRY
FOR CALLING YOU OUT SO LAST MINUTE.
OH.
WERE YOU STILL AT SCHOOL?
YEAH.
WE'VE ALREADY STARTED TESTS IN OUR CLASSES
HOW ABOUT YOU GUYS?


WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO HIM, THEN?!
IT'S NO USE. HE ALREADY WENT HOME
HE'S PROBABLY NOT EVEN THINKING ABOUT HAVING TO REPEAT A YEAR..
SFX: VINE DONG
Let's go to McDonald's!
I'm going too!

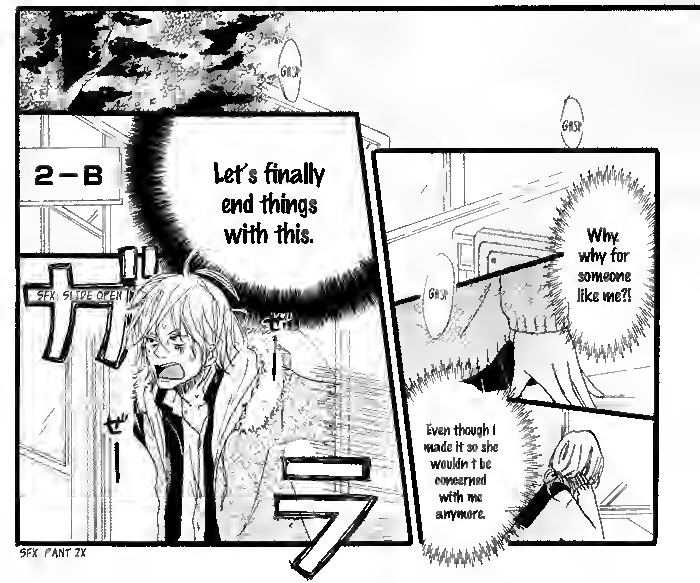
IT'S... IT'S MY FAULT
How's it going gorgeous ladies?

WHY DON'T WE ALL HAVE SOME FUN?
HEY
THIS ONE HERE'S A STUBBORN PRETTY BOY, YOU KNOW
SO FUNNY!
AHA-HAHA!


HEEEEEY! TERA-SAWAAAA
I must be a desperate one did I really do all that yesterday?

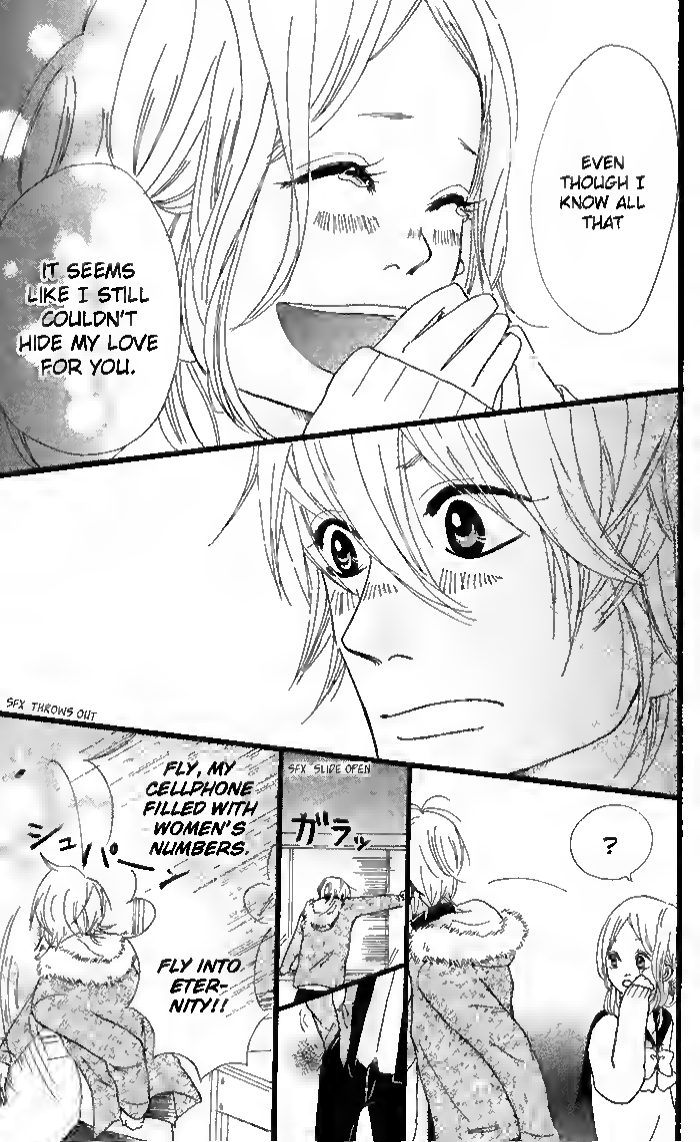

HE'S PROBABLY GIVEN UP...

BECAUSE TUTORING YOU WAS HER RESPONSIBILITY!!
SAKIKO SAID THAT IF YOU DON'T TAKE THAT TEST AND QUIT SCHOOL, SHE'S GONNA QUIT, TOO.
IF SAKIKO DROPS OUT OF SCHOOL IT'S YOUR FAULT!
BASTARD!! YOU'D BETTER STOP FUCKING UP GIRLS OUT HERE!!
Whoa, It's Takeuchi's friend...
HUH?
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?


GRIP
2-B
Let's finally end things with this.
SFX: SLIDE OPEN
GRIP
Why, why for someone like me?!
GRIP
Even though I made it so she wouldn't be concerned with me anymore.
SFX: PANT 2X

TERA-SAWA-KUN.
Ah.
I'M SORRY. I WENT AHEAD AND SAT DOWN WITHOUT YOU.
FORGET THAT. WHAT ABOUT THE TEST!
If we go now we can still make it.
SFX: GRABS
WHY THE HELL ARE YOU QUIT-TING, TAKEUCHI?
We're going to the staff room.
OH
I'M SORRY.
FORGET ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED
WHAT ARE YOU TALK-ING ABOUT?

!!
YOU KNOW, HOW I INCONVENIENCED YOU WITH THE FACT THAT I LIKE YOU, TERASAWA-KUN.
Wha-wha
What?
EVEN THOUGH I DIDN'T WANT ANYTHING TO CHANGE BETWEEN US, I FOUND THAT I COULDN'T GIVE IT UP...
SFX TEARS FALLING
I'M NOT AS ATTRACTIVE AS THOSE GIRLS THAT HANG AROUND YOU ALL THE TIME
AND YOU'VE NEVER LOOKED MY WAY, SO...
What, it was me?!
SEC... HANG ON!! WHAT THE HELL?! DON'T YOU HAVE SOMEONE YOU LIKE?
WAIT A
YEAH
SOMEONE NICE AND MATURE, YOU SAID.
THAT'S YOU TERASAWA-KUN!!


EVEN THOUGH I KNOW ALL THAT
IT SEEMS LIKE I STILL COULDN'T HIDE MY LOVE FOR YOU.
SFX THROWS OUT
FLY, MY CELLPHONE FILLED WITH WOMEN'S NUMBERS.
シュパーン
FLY INTO ETER-NITY!!
SFX SLIDE OPEN
ガラッ
?

EVEN AFTER ALL THIS, I STILL DON'T WANT TO JUST GIVE UP.
ME TOO!!
I always only show her the bad sides of me.
Oh... in the end

WOW.
But if she accepts me like this
Then the me who was only concerned with my outward appearance
SNIFF
Your nose is running.
SFX: TA-DA
SFX: SIGH
I may not be smart and sensible like Takeuchi
He really seems disappointed about it.
I'm so sorry
SFX TICK TICK
HAS SOMETHING CHANGED IN YOUR MENTAL STATE?
YA THINK? HELL NO!! SHUT UP, WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF A TEST.
SFX SMIRK
SFX BLOW
makes me think I should try being who I really am.

SFX GYAAAAAA

SFX PEACE

《 The End 》

Special アリガトウ

Special Thanks!! This is my dreamed-of first special volume. It makes me happy to know it will be in bookstores together with the works of my favorite authors!! I owe it all to everyone's support.

I <3 my readers, who read my manga and write me letters with their thoughts on my work. And to the people in charge whom I haven't stopped bugging since my debut, Yoshico-chan, K-suke, Yuca, Piyo, P-chan, Kuma. To all the friends who've given me their support, to everyone involved in this whole process, thank you so very much!!

I'd love to hear what you think ♥♥♥

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